The A. F. of L. Weekly News Letter contains a brief summary of important matters affecting labor, occurring in the industrial, legislative, and judicial fields, and such other information that will benefit the trade union movement.

# AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

## WEEKLY NEWS LETTER

AGITATE !
EDUCATE !
ORGANIZE !

Entered as second-class matter September 20, 1912, at the Post-office at Washington, D. C., under the Act of August 24, 1912.
Acceptance for mailing at special rate of postage provided for in Sec. 1103, Act of October 3, 1917, authorized July 11, 1918.

VOL. 9. NO. 4. WASHINGTON, D. C., SATURDAY, APRIL 19, 1919. WHOLE NO. 420.

## *A. F. OF L. COMMISSION HAS COMPLETED ITS WORK*

Washington, April 19.—President Gompers and associate members of the commission created by the A. F. of L. to represent the wage workers of this country at the peace conference, have returned from France. President Gompers' colleagues were the following vice presidents of the A. F. of L.: Messrs. Jas. Duncan, John R. Alpine, Frank Duffy and William Green. The A. F. of L. executive served as chairman of the international labor legislation committee, appointed by the peace conference, and which included representatives of the allied countries.

The report drafted by this committee includes the declaration that the labor of a human being is not a commodity or article of commerce. Other declarations, as unofficially stated, are:

Employers and workers should be allowed the right of association for all lawful purposes.

No child should be permitted to be employed in industry or commerce before the age of 14, in order that every child be insured reasonable opportunities for mental and physical education. Between the years of 14 and 18 young persons of either sex may be employed at work which is not harmful to their physical development, on condition that technical or general education is assured.

Every worker has the right to a wage adequate to maintain a reasonable standard of life, having regard to the civilization of his time and his country.

Equal pay should be given to women and men for work of equal value in quantity and quality.

Limitation is recommended of the hours of work in industry on the basis of eight hours a day and 48 hours a week, subject to exception in countries in which climatic conditions, imperfect development of industrial organization or other special circumstances render the industrial efficiency of the workers substantially different. The international labor conference will recommend a basis approximately equivalent to the above for the adoption of such countries.

In all matters concerning their status as workers and in social insurance, foreign workmen lawfully admitted to another country, and their families, should be assured the same treatment as the nationals of that country. All states should institute a system of inspection in which women should take part, in order to insure the enforcement of the laws and regulations for the protection of workers.

In an interview President Gompers made this statement on the committee's report:

"It is an instrument that can only make for the good of the working people and the masses of the people in all the countries of the world. It provides for an international labor conference annually and in the interim a governing board. The governing board is composed of a representative of each government, a representative of the employers and a labor delegate. The conference will determine each year the next meeting place. The first conference will be held at Washington next October and I have been selected as president of this conference."

Washington, April 19.—The central labor union has appointed a committee to arrange a demonstration in honor of President Gompers on the completion of his work at the peace conference. Details of the plan include a parade which will be participated in by all trade unionists of the nation's capital and near-by cities. The event will take place early in May.

### TIMBER WORKERS CONFER.

Seattle, April 19.—An eight-hour day in the northwest district was favored at the annual convention of the International Union of Timber Workers, held in this city.

The loyal legion of loggers and lumbermen was denounced as a company "union." The legion is controlled by the operators. Harry Call, general organizer of the International Union of Timber Workers, made a report on the loyal legion. For several months he was a private soldier in the army in the spruce production division, controlled by Colonel Disque, who organized the legion. In his indictment of the legion, Call said:

"Most unscrupulous and unfair has been this blacklisting, scabherding organization of the bosses in its antagonism to organized labor in general and to the International Union of Timber Workers in particular. There has been nothing that its officers and organizers would not stoop to to force the men in the timber industry to subscribe to its dangerous and un-American program.

"Membership in the Four-L has been made a condition of employment by many employers. Men with large families have been discharged from their jobs because they dared to oppose the will of the employers who absolutely control the organization."

### FORM STATE LABOR PARTY.

Springfield, Ill., April 19.—The Illinois labor party was launched in this city as the result of a referendum by the state federation of labor. The convention was called to order by Duncan McDonald, president of the state body. Representatives of the Non-partisan league were present.

The platform includes the right of collective bargaining, equal suffrage and equal pay for equal work, the universal eight-hour day, government ownership and operation of all public utilities, taxation of land values, excluding improvements, graduated taxation of inheritances, curbing of supreme court's powers, and abolition of contract work in state work.

The convention declared for new trials for Thomas J. Mooney and Warren K. Billings and demanded the removal of Postmaster General Burleson. The new party will be managed by a state delegate committee.

### "MOVERS" CAN'T VOTE.

Phoenix, Ariz., April 19.—Governor Campbell has vetoed a bill that would permit workers laid off prior to an election to secure a voting card from election officials so they could vote in other sections of the state in which they were located. Unionists charge that mining companies lay off men on important elections and as it is necessary for these workers to secure employment elsewhere, they lose their vote. The governor said that the few voters benefited would not compensate for the possibility of fraud through the use of these cards. Friends of the bill say that the "few voters" the governor refers to is not consistent with another statement by him that "only from 68 to 70 per cent of the voters who are on the register vote at the general election."

### RAISE WAGES 25 PER CENT.

Chicago, April 19.—Upholsterers' union No. 24 has raised wages 25 per cent and is now arranging to secure the eight-hour day and a 44-hour week. On the suggestion of the union, the Chicago federation of labor has favored the organization of a furniture trades' council which will include 10,000 workers.

### STRIKE AVERTED.

Aurora, Ill., April 19.—Representatives of the United States department of labor have averted a strike at the plant of the Independent Pneumatic Tool company. Nearly 1,000 workers were interested.

### PROFITEERING IN RENTS.

New York, April 19.—A local newspaper states that heads of many families in this city are paying one-half of their total income for the roof over their heads.

### PRINTERS STRIKE.

Rock Island, Ill., April 19.—Commercial shop printers employed in this city and in Moline and Davenport have suspended work to enforce a wage minimum of $33 a week.

### DEFENDS TEACHERS' UNIONS.

Houston, Texas, April 19.—In an editorial defending the right of teachers to affiliate with the trade union movement, the Houston Post says:

"One reason why the teachers of the United States have endured the hardships of the war period with no compensating increase of pay is that they were not organized, and another reason is that the great majority of them are women.

"We believe there is no room to doubt that the teaching standards of Houston and other features of the system will be more effectually raised through the teachers themselves unitedly and out of a sense of professional pride, than has been the case heretofore.

"And there will be many improvements when the teaching body can speak collectively and advise collectively, for then the rule of repression will necessarily give way and a spirit of genuine democracy be substituted for it.

"Surely if the public school system is entitled to be called the cradle of democracy, there ought to be at least enough of democracy in the operating force to be heard upon every vital issue pertaining either to the well being of the teaching force or the training of the children."

### STEEL WORKERS TO CONFER.

Pittsburg, Pa., April 19.—The national committee for organizing iron and steel workers has called a conference of every craft in the iron and steel industry throughout the country to be held in this city Sunday, May 25. The stated purpose is to devise methods to complete the organization of the workers in the iron and steel mills so that they can reap the benefits of unionism by securing higher wages, shorter hours and better working conditions.

All local unions of every trade regularly affiliated with their respective national and international unions and the A. F. of L., and having members employed in iron and steel plants, or having jurisdiction over men employed in these plants, are invited to send delegates. All unions, regardless of size or craft, are entitled to two delegates.

The call is signed by John Fitzpatrick, acting chairman, and Wm. Z. Foster, secretary-treasurer of the committee.

### INDORSE SEAMEN'S LAW.

Sacramento, Cal., April 19.—The California legislature has ignored the frantic appeals of ship owners and editors that the seamen's law be repealed, by passing a resolution that the merchant marine of the United States should provide for rights of the seamen, together with working conditions, "equal to and not lower" than those established by the LaFollette seamen's law.

This action by the legislature is especially distressing to Captain Robert Dollar of San Francisco, who has furnished much of the ammunition against the law and who now finds his home state against him.

### PASS THREE-PLATOON BILL.

Albany, N. Y., April 19.—The state assembly has passed the fire fighters' three-platoon bill. A referendum rider to appease cities now financially overburdened removed practically all opposition to the measure.

San Antonio, Texas, April 19.—The Fire Fighters' union has secured over 7,000 signatures to its petition to submit a two-platoon question to a referendum vote at the municipal election on May 13. The trade union movement is behind the fire fighters in this movement.

### EXPRESS MEN GAIN.

Washington, April 15.—Wage increases averaging about $15 a month for approximately 70,000 employes of the American Railway Express company has been announced by Director General of Railroads Hines. The increase represents an advance of $25 a month above the wage scale in effect the first of the year.

The major portion of these employes are members of the express division, Brotherhood of Railway Clerks, and the wage negotiations were conducted for the workers by President Forrester of the brotherhood.

### WIN EIGHT-HOUR DAY.

Dayton, Ohio, April 19.—The Gem City Stove company has conceded the eight-hour day to its striking metal polishers and these employes have returned to work.

## SENSATIONAL GAINS BY BUTCHER WORKMEN

Chicago, April 19.—One of the most sensational records in the history of the trade union movement has been made by the Amalgamated Meat Cutters and Butcher Workmen since July, 1917.

At that time the union's membership was 6,500 with a debt of over $2,000. At the convention in that year a dual organization was discontinued and the butcher workmen, now united, started on an organizing campaign, aided by the A. F. of L., and its affiliate, the Chicago federation of labor. In 18 months the membership has increased from 6,500 to 100,000, collective bargaining secured, and the work day changed from 10 and 12 hours to eight hours, with extra pay for overtime. Wages have been increased approximately 50 per cent, the total amount being about $40,000,000.

These gains have been secured through arbitration after the union strengthened its lines to the point where a successful strike was possible if living conditions were refused.

The Butcher Workman, official paper of this organization, makes the following comment on these skyrocket gains:

"During this comparatively brief space of time our international body brought emancipation from virtual slavery, a more adequate wage, the long denied opportunity for sufficient rest and recreation and consequent social and educational advancement, recognition of organized effort, the stubbornly contested privilege of collective bargaining and more humane working conditions to over 100,000 packing house workers throughout the United States."

### INJURED DON'T GET AID.

Boston, April 19.—At a legislative hearing on proposed amendments to the state compensation law, one speaker declared that under present conditions everything is thrown in the way of injured workers getting their compensation. "The overhead expense to get a few dollars to the injured workman is terrific," it was stated.

The amendments were recommended by a special legislative committee, a majority of whom favor the establishment of a competitive state fund to care for workmen's compensation insurance. Their reason for such recommendation was the reduction of overhead charges by the elimination of agents and stockholders.

In defending the report Senator Cavanagh said that it asked for a competitive state fund, modeled after New York state. It would be directed by nine men appointed by the governor, but in other respects would be run as an insurance company. He charged that insurance companies had not paid injured employes speedily and had hindered the workmen from getting compensation legally due them. "The establishment of a state fund will result in less controversy and more speedy payment than under the present system," declared the senator. He also enlarged on the recommendation that a director of public safety be appointed to aid in the education of factory workers for safeguarding their health and lives.

### MR. BURLESON CORNERED.

New York, April 19.—"Postmaster General Burleson is not helping his grand public-ownership enterprise by making statements as to his operation of telegraphs and telephones which are instantly challenged by men familiar with the facts," says the New York World.

"For example, he says that the recent increase in rates was made necessary by higher wages and that the added revenue will hardly cover the extra expense; but officials of the employes' organization deny that there has been any actual increase in wages, holding that the extraordinary outlays now cited are mostly due to costly and wasteful methods introduced since the lines passed under the control of government.

"As a further illustration, in defending the 20 per cent increase in rates on these grounds, Mr. Burleson says that it would have been unavoidable and probably greater if private management of the lines had been continued. In reply to this we have the statement of President Mackay of the Postal company in which he guarantees restoration and maintenance of the old rates when public control of his lines shall have been relinquished."

### PAINTERS RAISE WAGES.

Rockford, Ill., April 19.—A short strike by Painters' union No. 607 resulted in a two-years' agreement and a wage increase of 10 cents an hour. The rate is now 70 cents.

Moline, Ill., April 19.—Local painters have secured a union-shop agreement and a new minimum that advances rates to 75 cents an hour.

Chattanooga, Tenn., April 19.—The new wage agreement of Painters' union No. 236 increases wages from 50 to 65 cents an hour. Sign painters have organized 100 per cent and have secured a new wage agreement.

Buffalo, N. Y., April 19.—Organized painters have secured a one-year agreement which raises wages 50 cents a day.

### WILL INVOKE REFERENDUM.

Columbus, Ohio, April 19.—The executive board of the Ohio state federation of labor has voted to invoke the referendum on the Miller bill, which was passed by the general assembly over the veto of Governor Cox. The bill requires senate confirmation of appointments on the state industrial commission, and the unionists declare that this is a "subtle attack on the administration of the workmen's compensation law and an attempt to throw the activities of that department into the political spoils system."

### UNION COLLEGE OPENS.

Boston, April 19.—The college started by the central labor union opened its doors with more than 150 enrolled students. The purpose of the college is to provide higher education for the workers. The students include both sexes and all ages. In one instance a father and daughter sat together.

Among the first lessons are: "How to Write English," "Shop Committees and Collective Bargaining," "Master Pieces of Literature" and "The Distribution of Wealth."

### CAN REDUCE ACCIDENTS.

Boston, April 19.—At a legislative hearing on proposed amendments to the state compensation law Dudley Holman stated that 75 per cent of all accidents are preventable.

## INDUSTRIAL POISON IS TRACED TO LEAD

Washington, April 19.—In a pamphlet on "Women in the Lead Industries," written by Alice Hamilton, M. D., and issued by the United States bureau of labor statistics, it is stated that lead is by far the most common industrial poison, being responsible, according to Teleky, for no less than 95 per cent of all the poisoning due to occupation.

The popular idea about lead poisoning, held especially by foremen and superintendents, says Dr. Hamilton, is that the workman poisons himself by eating his lunch without carefully washing his hands, but it is safe to say that there is abundant proof that lead dust and lead fumes, not lack of personal cleanliness, are responsible for most of the industrial lead poisoning in this country, as in all countries.

"If a man employed in lead smelting, for instance, were to get into his mouth every bit of the soluble lead that is clinging to his hands at the end of a day's work he would not get as much lead as he breathes in during two hours' exposure to the dust and fumes in the air.

"It may be laid down as an absolute rule that the dustier the work the greater will be the amount of lead poisoning. In the pottery trade in the United States the writer found one case of lead poisoning for every seven women employed in lead work, while in the British potteries the proportion of cases to those employed was only 1 in 64."

Dr. Hamilton recommends a strict sanitary code for employe and work shop. "In deciding as to the length of the workday for women lead workers," she says, "it must be remembered that the longer the hours the greater the dose of lead absorbed, and the shorter the period for elimination of the dose before the next workday. It must also be remembered that fatigue increases susceptibility to lead poisoning and so does a heated or humid atmosphere."

### METAL TRADES ADVANCE.

Washington, April 19.—The American Ship Building company, representing eight ship yards along the great lakes, has signed an agreement with the A. F. of L. metal trades department similar to that signed by the Bethlehem ship building corporation. For the workers, the agreement is signed by James O'Connell, president, and A. J. Berres, secretary-treasurer of the metal trades department.

A joint labor adjustment committee of five employers and five trade unionists appointed by the department shall be set up to hear or consider all grievances or other questions affecting wages, hours of labor or working conditions which have been first considered by the joint shop committee and then by the two secretaries appointed by each party to the joint labor adjustment committee.

In the agreement the company recognizes the metal trades department "as a suitable agency to act with the company's representatives to arbitrate all questions as to wages, hours of labor and working conditions."

It is stated that the United States emergency fleet corporation, which operates three ship building yards, will sign a similar agreement, as will the Atlantic coast ship building companies. Workers in Pacific coast ship yards are now considering this agreement.

### AGAINST IMMIGRATION.

Lake Charles, La., April 19.—Legislation that would stop immigration for two years was demanded by the Louisiana state federation of labor at its annual convention in this city. Other demands were: Government ownership, operation or regulation in the interest of the public of railroads and other public or semi-public utilities; government ownership of wharves and docks; an investigation of housing conditions and reforms of school conditions and working hours of women employes.

The convention declared that "the freedom of the press and the freedom of speech and assemblage is the only open door to the freedom of the people which is guarded by the constitution of the United States."

In his opening address to the convention President Greer declared that labor will not accept lower wages.

"Labor does not go backward," he said. "We are going to hold what we have and we are going to march forward. Reduce the wages and you reduce the standards of living, shatter the ideals of workers and force them back to the levels out of which they have emerged by long years of struggle."

### R. R. ACCIDENTS LESSEN.

Washington, April 19.—"Safety first" policies under direction of the railroad administration have resulted in the organization of safety committees of employes and officers with 20,156 members, as compared with comparatively few men serving in this manner a year ago.

The railroad administration directs attention to the reduction in accidents as the result. In January, for instance, 94 persons were killed on railroads and 363 were injured, while in January, 1918, without the safety first movement developed, 212 persons were killed and 2,118 were injured.

The safety section of the railroad administration plans to make May a "no accident month" in the southwestern region.

### CO-OPS. TO START STORE.

San Francisco, April 19.—The Consumers' Co-operative league has filed incorporation papers and is preparing to open a store. The co-ops. are arranging with a co-operative motor truck company to bring farm products direct to the city.

President Murphy and Secretary Paul Scharrenberg of the state federation of labor, together with other well-known trade unionists are interested in the co-op. store. On the board of directors and on an advisory council of 24 is included citizens sympathetic to the purposes of the organized labor movement.

### MUCH ROAD BUILDING.

Washington, April 19.—The department of labor states that by the end of June, 1921, there will be available for federal aid for state road building more than $266,000,000.

The spending of the money depends upon the several states. Some are taking advantage of this federal aid, while other states are slow to act.

### WIN THREE-MONTHS' STRIKE.

Seattle, April 19.—Metal polishers employed by the Lang Stove company have raised wages 48 cents a day after a three-months' strike.

## STEP-AT-A-TIME PLAN SUCCEEDS IN UNIONS

Baltimore, April 19.—In an editorial on the trade union movement the Baltimore Sun prints a good illustration of organized labor's policy, which was contumptuously referred to a few years ago as a step-at-a-time plan by so-called revolutionists. The Sun says:

"Forty or 50 years ago a chess player by the name of Steinitz invented what is known as the modern style of chess play. Its chief characteristic was what he called 'the accumulation of small advantages.'

"The old chess masters staked success on bold and reckless strokes. More often than not they came to grief. Steinitz moved prudently, cautiously, gaining a small advantage here and another there, and finally winning out through the accumulation of these trifling advantages. The Steinitz method has driven out the old method among the first-class players. It is the style that wins.

"The Federation of Labor, in the three decades during which Mr. Gompers has been its leading figure, has played the game of labor advancement in this way. It has striven to get a reduction in the hours of labor here, an increase of wages there, better working conditions in this place or that. It has resolutely put out of mind all dreams of the achievement of the millennium overnight and kept its mind always on the next step in advance."

### BOSSES TRICK WORKERS.

Boston, April 19.—Investigators of social unrest might consider a statement by Textile Workers' union No. 1167, in which is shown the tricky methods and broken promises by the management of the Aetna mills.

Last January the union's officials were promised that the 48-hour week would be established on February 3, the date set by the United Textile Workers, and would continue in operation until the question was finally settled. A promise was also made that the mills would not shut down.

The union now states that when the government's orders were completed in the middle of February the mills were shut down. Later the workers were told operations would be resumed on new work if they would sign a six-months' agreement. The workers offered to return to work and sign after they ascertained the quality of the work, but this was refused.

"This is the seventh week of idleness and we consider the officials only are to blame," says the union in its statement.

"While they had war contracts they pleaded with us for co-operation to enable Uncle Sam to make the world safe for democracy, but the agent of the Aetna mills, R. A. Baerner, acts as though he believed the war was fought to make the Aetna mills safe for plutocracy and autocracy."

### EDUCATION, NOT FORCE.

Washington, Aril 19.—Education and not arbitrary suppression is the remedy for extreme revolutionary industrial propaganda, says ex-Governor Bass of New Hampshire in his report as director of the marine and dock industrial relations division of the United States shipping board.

"The time has passed when the appeal to patriotism will have any influence," he says. "Revolutionary industrial propaganda can never be stilled by arbitrary suppression, by court decisions, by imprisonment or by strong-arm methods. In my opinion, the use of these methods constitutes grave national danger. It will jeopardize our whole industrial organization and present system of civilized development and will destroy our present form of government.

"The kind of disorganizing propaganda now so far-reaching in its scope can not be forcibly suppressed. It can only be successfully combated by enlightened, sound and universal education among those whom this propaganda is intended to reach."

Mr. Bass' conclusions are based upon more than a year's experience with the shipping board in the handling of marine and longshore labor problems.

### TELEPHONE GIRLS STRIKE.

Boston, April 19.—Refusing to longer tolerate the labor policy of Postmaster General Burleson, nearly 6,000 telephone operators, employed in this city and vicinity, have suspended work. The girls are affiliated with the Brotherhood of Electrical Workers.

The brotherhood is now conducting a referendum vote on the question of a general strike against the government-controlled telephone systems. These workers are asking that they be given rights accorded other governmental departments, which include the establishment of committees to adjust grievances and the recognition of the workers' right to join trade unions. Repeated appeals have been made to the post office department for a redress of grievances.

The unionists show that the post office department is the one branch of the government that has made no provision for the redress of grievances.

### EQUAL PAY FOR WOMEN.

Washington, April 19.—The national war labor board has recommended that the Western Chemical company of Denver give women employes equal pay with men for equal work, and that the employes elect a committee to take up complaints with the company.

The board ruled that there was no justification for reducing wages, since the complaint was filed against the company last November, and that the original wage should be restored with back pay from the time of the reduction. The board recommended that employes be granted time and one-half in excess of eight hours a day and double time for Sunday and holiday work.

### TEACHERS CALL BLUFF.

New York, April 19.—President Somers of the board of education defends the board's opposition to the Teachers' union on the ground that it has published "treasonable literature." This attempt to create a hostile sentiment against the teachers is met by Dr. Henry R. Linville, president of the union, who calls on Mr. Somers to produce the literature.

"The teachers are fighting not only against autocracy in the educational system," said President Linville, "but they are also fighting against dishonesty."

### WIN 44-HOUR WEEK.

San Francisco, April 19.—Machinists and boiler makers have won their fight for a 44-hour week.

## IGNORANCE OF WRONG CAN'T BE DEFENDED

London, England, April 19.—"Our ignorance is no excuse; if we were blind it was only because we would not see," says Reynolds's Newspaper, in discussing conditions that a government commission has shown exists in the coal mining industry.

"A great shock," says the editor, "has been given to the comfortable classes by the revelations before the commission as to the conditions under which miners, who do such vitally necessary work for the nation, have had to live, and some appreciation of the feeling of intolerable injustice that the miner suffers has been impressed on many who cared nothing for miners so long as they got coal.

"But the facts are not new. Every student of social affairs knew them, though our knowledge has been added to when, side by side with the picture of the appalling housing conditions in mining towns and villages, we have placed the gigantic profits of some of the very companies to whom such houses belonged.

"We are all in some measure to blame for the fact that, knowing that these scandals were in existence—and if we did not know, we ought to have known—we allowed them to go on. It is almost as if the public conscience can only be truly aroused by sensation.

"A few days ago the queen visited one of the worst slum areas of the east end. She was shocked, as everybody would be shocked if they saw these places with their own eyes. And now many feel that something ought to be done to remove these blots on our good name.

"But why does it require the indignation of a queen to rouse people to a sense of their civic duties?

"The prime minister told us some time ago that it was the aim of the government to make this a country fit for heroes to live in, and it does seem at last to be meeting with some general recognition that heroes can not properly be bred in hovels.

"Wherever there are bad houses, there, too, are vice, brutality, dirt, disease, poverty of body and poverty of mind—true breeding grounds rather for devils than for heroes."

### MACKAY ATTACKS AWARDS.

New York, April 19.—In a statement on the recent telegraph rate increase of 20 per cent by Postmaster General Burleson, President Mackay of the Postal company says:

"The real explanation is to be found in the report of the Western Union Telegraph company for 1918 to the interstate commerce commission, which has just been filed. It appears from an analysis of that report that Mr. Burleson has paid that company as compensation for five months, August to December inclusive, more than that company earned to the extent of about $2,500,000. This means a loss of over $5,000,000 for a whole year.

"Why did he give them more then they earned? And why did he give the Postal company less than half of what it earned? If Mr. Burleson had given both companies exactly what they earned and no more, there would have been no occasion for raising the telegraph rates 20 pere cent.

"He gives the Western Union $5,000,000 more than it should get, gives the Postal $2,000,000 less than it should get and then extorts from the public $16,000,000 more than there is any occasion or excuse for extorting."

### MAY FORCE RECOGNITION.

London, England, April 19.—To compel employers to recognize their organization, the Association of Engineering and Shipbuilding Draughtsmen has submitted a referendum to the membership to declare in favor of withdrawing the filling of vacancies for draughtsmen from the government's employment exchanges in order that the association may become the only agency for the placing or seeking of employment in this profession. The association includes over 11,000 draughtsmen out of about 14,000 eligible for membership. By withdrawing from connection with the employment agencies the association believes it will force employers to come to it and thus establish a recognition that is now denied.

The progress of the draughtsmen's union has been remarkable, as these workers were looked upon, up to within a few years ago, as impossible to organize. Now they are definitely linked up with the trade union movement.

### STREET CAR MEN GAIN.

San Antonio, Texas, April 19.—Organized street car men employed by the San Antonio Public Service company have raised wages 26 per cent. The new scale is 40 cents an hour the first year for motormen and conductors, and 42 cents thereafter. The old scale was 30 and 35 cents. The increase means an additional 95 cents a day to first-year men and 65 to 70 cents for those employed more than one year. This is the third advance these workers have secured within the last three years.

Topeka, Kan., April 19.—Wage differences between the Street Car Men's union and the Street Railway company have been ended by the workers accepting the company's offer to raise wages to 34 and 38 cents. The men asked for 40 and 45 cents.

### FIGHTING WOMEN'S BILL.

Boston, April 19.—The biggest lobby in years swarmed through the state house in an attempt to kill the 48-hour bill for women and children.

Business men came from every section of the state, and every trick and device was urged to stop the passage of the bill.

"If you can't kill the bill, stick in these amendments," was the cry of the lobby.

One of the amendments proposed a 51 instead of a 48-hour week. Another would allow the mill owners and mercantile and industrial establishments to work the women and children 10 hours a day. The third would prevent the bill from becoming operative until July 1, 1920.

### THREE UNIONS UNITE.

San Antonio, Texas, April 19.—The three locals of brewery workers, beer bottlers and beer drivers have merged into one organization that will be known as Cereal, Beverage and Soft Drink Workers' union No. 12.

### RETAIL CLERKS UNITE.

Everett, Wash., April 19.—Retail clerks in this city have organized a union with over 100 charter members. The women clerks are the biggest "boosters" for the new movement.

## *RECOGNIZE TRADE UNIONS IS BEST WAY TO BUILD CITY*

Madison, Wis., April 19.—Those citizens who affect no interest in the struggles of organized labor are taken to task by the Capital Times.

This newspaper is not a trade union publication, but its editor fearlessly proclaims the trade union theory of collective bargaining and the advantages of high wages to a community that are only possible when the workers unite.

"Do the people of Madison recognize the importance of the industrial struggle that is now going on here to the community as a whole?" asks this paper.

"The Capital Times believes that the present contest is the fight of every man and woman who really believes in the welfare of Madison. The case can be stated in a few words:

"1—The real struggle here is over the question of the recognition of the principle of collective bargaining.

"2—United States department of labor statistics prove that wages are lowest where labor is the most poorly organized; that wages are highest where labor is most highly organized.

"3—Where wages are low there is more destitution, the community vitality is lower, sickness is more prevalent, children get less of nourishment, crime figures mount higher, and there is less energy and life and contentment in the rank and file.

"4—Where the common people have less money to spend the business men do a smaller amount of business, they lose more in bad debts, a more inferior lot of goods are bought, the savings are less.

"Are there any bigger community problems than these for the people of Madison to face? Are there any bigger problems for Madison business men to face?

"Is, then, the struggle that is going on here one purely that concerns the men who are out?

"For years Madison has been in the low wage area of the middle west.

"There was only one reason for this. Up to the last few years labor was poorly organized in Madison. Janesville and Oshkosh are other Wisconsin cities that were in the same condition as Madison.

"Just how big a community asset is it to have the Johnsons and the Steinles rolling in wealth while the masses of the workers are living from hand to mouth? Viewed from a purely sordid standpoint of dollars and cents is this a desirable situation for our dry goods men and grocers, for our theater owners and shoe dealers, for the restaurant man and the candy maker, for the real estate man and the banker?

"Decidedly not.

"And let no one be deceived as to the intents and purposes of Madison employers in the present controversy.

"Clever corporation lawyers may write technical defenses for their clients; the employers may call in the employes individually and promise them higher wages to stay on the job; the employers may talk of agitators and class hatred and bolshevism as means to bugaboo the men away from industrial justice. But back of it all stands the one big thing:

"Madison employers are fighting to continue Madison as a low wage town.

"Let labor lose the present strike and the employes will find that the drift will be steadily back toward lower wages; these men who are now stabbing their fellow workers in the back by succumbing to the lure of higher wages for staying on the job now will find that when the opportune time comes they, too, will pay the price in lower wages for having sold out their brothers.

"The lessons of this war have evidently been lost on Madison employers. They are still fighting for the old order. They still want to deal with the individual and browbeat him into low wages and long hours. They fight solidarity among the workers. They know that the principle of collective bargaining will bring industrial justice. They know that if they can smash the ranks of labor they can continue the old order and treat labor as a commodity that they can buy in the market at their own price.

"Where are the people of Madison going to stand in this fight—with the employers or with the men?

"Do you really love Madison and do you really want this community to march forward?

"Can we set up the old labor standards here, keep wages down, allow the rich to become richer and the poor to become poorer and make this a better city?

"Which do you prefer, Mr. Grocer, Mr. Merchant, Mr. Real Estate Man and Mr. Banker?

"As good business men isn't it good business to raise the prosperity level of Madison as a whole?

"This, then, isn't only the strikers' fight.

"It is the fight of every man and woman who thinks in terms of fundamentals and not of froth as a means of making a bigger and better Madison."

### WON'T MEET UNIONISTS.

New York, April 19.—"The very idea!" exclaims Lindley M. Garrison, receiver of the Brooklyn Rapid Transit company, when asked to receive a committee to discuss working conditions of employes who have organized a Street Car Men's union.

The present age is unknown to Mr. Garrison, who declares that the union is "attempting to create differences between the company and its employes."

The company has been notoriously antagonistic to trade unionism and the receiver, while supposed to be an agent of the court, would seem to be carrying out this policy.

The company's antagonism to organized labor resulted in a wreck last November that caused the death of 98 passengers. The company refused to obey an order by the national war labor board that victimized unionists should be reinstated. The men suspended work and the wreck was the result of a green employe attempting to operate a train.

### BIG MONEY IN "TIPS."

Sacramento, Cal., April 19.—The state assembly has passed a bill forbidding tipping in hotels and restaurants unless a notice is posted informing every would-be tipor that the tip is to remain in the sole possession of the tipee.

Assemblyman Prendergast, the author of the bill, wants to break up commercialism in tips. It is stated that in one San Francisco restaurant the tipping concession is sold for $6,000 a year, and another hotel in the same city receives $10,000 for this concession.

"The girls who work in these concessions, such as cloak rooms, are forced to put the tips in a small box," said Prendergast, "and if they are given an extra tip for themselves it is taken from them by the owners of the concession. The girls are virtually searched each night after work to ascertain if they have received extra tips."

### JOHN F. TOBIN IS DEAD.

Boston, April 19.—John F. Tobin, for years president of the Boot and Shoe Workers' union, died after an ailment of considerable length. The funeral was attended by a large number of trade unionists.

The A. F. of L. was represented by First Vice President Duncan, on request of President Gompers.

Deceased was one of the best-known trade unionists in this country. His career as a member and as an official of organized labor was long and honorable.

Deceased was 64 years old. He was one of the leading figures in the organization of the Boot and Shoe Workers' union, over 20 years ago. He was the first president of that organization and has been continuously elected to that office.

### UNIONS VALUE EDUCATION.

Washington, April 19.—"One of the striking developments in recent months has been the sudden awakening on the part of the public as to the actual pay received by teachers," says School Life, published by the United States bureau of education. "The labor organizations, always interested in education, have been of powerful assistance in molding public sentiment in their communities."

It is stated that the average salary for teachers throughout the United States is about $600, "which means a huge number of positions paying $300 and $400 a year and even less."

### RESIST WAGE CUT.

Portland, Ore., April 19.—The Master Painters' association attempted to reduce wages of its organized painters, but a six-hours' strike resulted in new viewpoints of these empoyers.

### BOOKBINDERS GAIN.

Cleveland, April 19.—After many conferences Bookbinders' union has raised wages 10 per cent. The new weekly minimums are $27.50 for journeymen and $17.50 for women.

### COSSACKS WILL BE GENTLE.

Charleston, W. Va., April 19.—Although trade unionists in this state lost their fight against the establishment of a state cossack system, their agitation has borne fruit, as is shown by a statement to organized labor by Governor Cornwell.

The state executive says:

"I now repeat what I said before, the state police force is intended only to enforce the laws of the land, laws made by the people's legislature, to protect life and property, to preserve order and to make the state a safer and more decent place for you to live and raise a family."

The West Virginia Federationist assures the governor that organized labor stands for law and order, but before this state can be made a safer and more decent place to live in, "the notorious gun man guard system must be wiped out of the state in its entirety."

"We will say to Governor Cornwell," says the labor paper, "that he will have the undivided support of organized labor of the state in putting the Baldwin-Feltz thugs and the coal company guards out of commission and maintaining law and order and installing in their place the principles of democracy, industrial freedom and social justice for all our citizenship."

### PASS HEALTH INSURANCE.

Albany, N. Y., April 19.—The state senate has passed a compulsory health insurance bill. There is to be no compulsory physical examinations and employers and employes will pay an equal amount into the insurance fund. Where the worker earns less than $9 a week, but more than $5, the employer must pay three-quarters of the contribution and the worker one-quarter. The weekly cash sickness benefit is to be equal to two-thirds of the insured person's earnings, not to exceed $8 a week, nor to be less than $5. The benefit shall not be paid for more than 26 weeks in any one year. This benefit is also to be paid to an insured woman, disabled on account of prospective motherhood.

Employers of eight or less employes are exempted from the law. The state federation of labor supported this measure.

### ESTABLISH NEW RATES.

Lorain, Ohio, April 19.—A strike of building craftsmen in this city and surrounding towns has been averted by Commissioner A. L. Faulkner of the United States department of labor setting wage rates to the satisfaction of the interested parties.

A strike had been arranged by the workers as both sides could not agree on arbitration when it was suggested that the commissioner set the rates. This was agreed to and the following award was made: Bricklayers, 87½ cents an hour; electrical workers, 77½ cents; carpenters and plumbers, 75 cents, and painters and sheet metal workers, 72½ cents.

### NO SIGN OF CHEAPER MEAT.

Chicago, April 19.—The American Meat Packers' association has issued a statement in which it declares that lower prices for meat may not be expected until the war-stricken countries of Europe are enabled to resume their quota of production and that "high prices will continue for a long time."

It is stated that each day that brings final peace nearer means a greater call on this country for meat and that low meat prices must wait until European production is in good swing again.

### SMASH 60-HOUR WEEK.

Columbus, Ga., April 19.—While organized textile workers have not secured the 48-hour week in this city they have succeeded in smashing the 60-hour week. The striking workers were confronted with an offer to reduce hours to 55 per week or possibly to stand a long siege. They chose the former plan and are confident that with their union intact other gains can be secured in the near future.